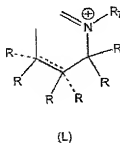
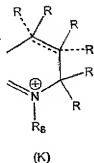
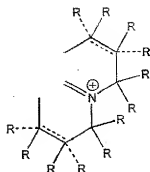


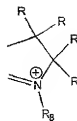
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE,
AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

- 1-3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) The carboxamide-substituted dye as claimed in claim 34, in which Cyc1 is substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl or cyclohexyl.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently amended) The carboxamide-substituted dye as claimed in claim 34 in which R_1 is bridged with R_8 or R_3 is bridged with R_7 or R_1 is bridged with R_8 and R_3 is bridged with R_7 forming a ring system.
7. (Previously presented) The carboxamide-substituted dye as claimed in claim 6, in which the ring system comprises 5- or 6-membered rings.
8. (Previously presented) The carboxamide-substituted dye as claimed in claim 7, in which a ring system of the structure (K), (L), (M), (N) or (O) is formed:

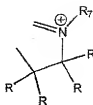




(M)



(N)



(O)

in which R in each case independently is defined as R₁, R₃, R₄ and the dashed lines are optionally double bonds in the presence of which the moieties bound via a dashed line are absent.

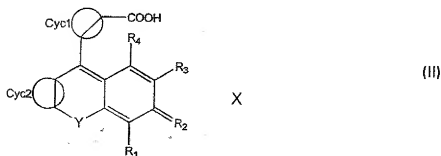
9-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) The carboxamide-substituted dye as claimed in claim 8, in which Cyc1 is optionally substituted phenyl, Cyc2 has the structure (E) and Y = oxygen and R₇ and R₃ form a ring system (K).

16-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) A process for preparing carboxamide-substituted dyes of the formula (I) as claimed in claim 34, comprising the following steps:

(a) converting the carboxyl group of a dye of the formula (II)



in which the moieties are defined as indicated in claim 34, into an activated form;

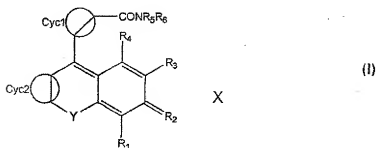
(b) reacting the activated dye obtained in step (a) with a secondary amine HNR_5R_6 ; and

(c) optionally isolating the carboxamide-substituted dye of the formula (I) obtained in step (b).

22. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 21, in which step (a) is carried out at temperatures of from room temperature to 60°C .
23. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 21, in which an aprotic solvent is used in step (b).
24. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 21 in which N-hydroxysuccinimide, N-hydroxyphthalimide, N-hydroxynaphthalimide, or O-(N-succinimidyl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate (TSTU) are used for activation.

25-33 (Cancelled);

34. (Currently amended) A carboxamide-substituted dye of the formula (I)



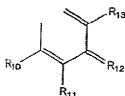
in which

Y= oxygen, R₁, R₃, R₄ are independently hydrogen, halogen, -O⁻, a hydroxyl group, thiol group, amino group, ammonium group, sulfo group, phospho group, nitro group, carbonyl group, carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid derivative, a nitrile group, isonitrile group, cyanate group, isocyanate group, thiocyanate group, isothiocyanate group or a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms;



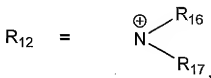
in which

R₇, R₈, independently are hydrogen or a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms; or R₁ together with R₂ is



in which

R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{13} are as defined for R_1 , R_3 and R_4 ;



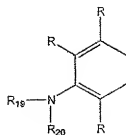
in which

R_{16} and R_{17} are as defined for R_7 and R_8 ,

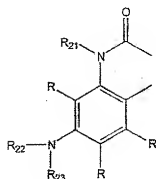
R_5 and R_6 [I.] independently are a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms, wherein at least one of R_5 and R_6 comprises a carboxy group;

Cyc1 is an organic moiety which comprises a ring system selected from aromatic, heteroaromatic, quinoidal and cycloaliphatic rings; wherein Cyc1 is substituted with $-\text{CONR}_5\text{R}_6$ at the ortho-position of the ring attached to a backbone of formula (I) ;

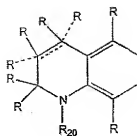
Cyc2 is an organic moiety which comprises a ring system selected from aromatic, heteroaromatic, quinoidal and cycloaliphatic rings; wherein Cyc2 has a structure selected from (A), (D), (E), (F), (G), (H) or (J),



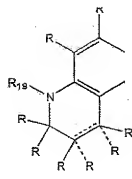
(A)



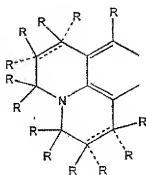
(D)



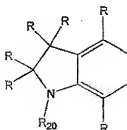
(E)



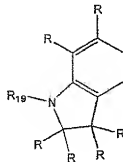
(F)



(G)



(H)



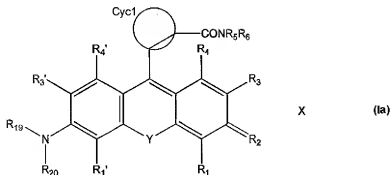
(J)

in which R in each case independently is defined as R₁, R₃, R₄, R₁₉, R₂₀, and R₂₂ and R₂₃ are independently defined as R₇, R₈, and R₂₁ is defined as R₇, and the dashed lines are optionally double bonds in the presence of which the moieties bound via a dashed line are absent, each of said moieties in the dye of the formula (I) being able to form a ring

system with one or more neighboring moieties;

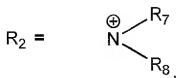
and X being one or more mono- or multivalent anions, when required for balancing the charge; and wherein at least one of R₁, R₃, R₄, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₃ and R is a sulfo group.

35. (Currently amended) A carboxamide-substituted dye of the formula (Ia)



in which

Y = oxygen; R₁, R₁', R₃, R₃', R₄ and R₄' are independently hydrogen, halogen, -O⁻, a hydroxyl group, thiol group, amino group, ammonium group, sulfo group, phospho group, nitro group, carbonyl group, carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester, carboxylic acid halide, carboxylic acid amide, carboxylic acid anhydride, a nitrile group, isonitrile group, cyanate group, isocyanate group, thiocyanate group, isothiocyanate group or a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms; wherein at least one of R₁, R₁', R₃, R₃', R₄ and R₄' is a sulfo group



R_5 and R_6 independently are a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms; wherein at least one of R_5 and R_6 comprises a carboxy group.

R_7 , R_8 , R_{19} and R_{20} independently are hydrogen or a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms,

Cyc1 is an organic moiety which comprises a ring system selected from aromatic, heteroaromatic, quinoidal and cycloaliphatic rings; wherein Cyc1 is substituted with $-\text{CONR}_5R_6$ at the ortho-position of the ring attached to a backbone of formula (Ia).

36. (Previously presented) The carboxamide-substituted dye of the formula (I) of claim 34, wherein R_7 and R_8 independently are straight-chained saturated hydrocarbon groups.
37. (Previously presented) The carboxamide-substituted dye of the formula (Ia) of claim 35, wherein R_1 , R_1' independently are sulfo groups.
38. (Canceled)